GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4492
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
SCHEME TO PROMOTE VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR DISABLED
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for persons with disabilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government emphasis on the voluntary sector in the area of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; and

(c) the manner in which the Government encourage the Voluntary Sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) This Scheme enables the voluntary sector to take up welfare projects in the area ofeducation, training and rehabilitation of the disabled. The formulation and implementation of this Scheme is a step towards fulfillment of responsibilities entrusted on the Government of India towards rehabilitation of the disabled under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, protection of rights and full participation) Act, 1995. Under the Scheme, the eligible organizations can apply for financial assistance for setting up special schools, vocational training centers, sheltered workshops, day care centres, rehabilitation centre providing therapeutic and counseling services, placement services for disabled persons. Homes and vocational training centres for persons cured of leprosy are also supported.

The efforts towards encouragement of the voluntary sector can clearly be seen from the growth in the expenditure under the Scheme and the number of NGOs assisted. During1997-98, the total disbursement under the earlier versions of the Scheme was around Rs.20 crores released to around 400 organisations. The expenditure has grown to around Rs.62 crores spread over 534 organisations during 2000-01.